(b) whether Government have any plan to computerise more branches during 2000; and

(c) if so, the names of the banks and the branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 45 branches of the public sector banks operating in the North-Eastern States are fully computerised and 50 branches are partly computerised.

(b) and (c) RBI have further reported that 129 more branches of the public sector banks in this region have been identified for computerisation within 2000. The bank-wise break-up of these branches is given below :—

S. No.	Name of the bank	No. of branches
1.	State Bank of India	10
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1
3.	Allahabad Bank	6
4.	Bank of Baroda	2
5.	Canara Bank	5
6.	Central Bank of India	3
7.	Indian Bank	3
8.	Indian Overseas Bank	3
9.	Punjab National Bank	4
10.	Syndicate Bank	4
11.	UCO Bank	10
12.	United Bank of India	77
13.	Vijaya Bank	1
	Total :	129

Customs Duty on Import of Textile Machinery

2665. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert Committee constituted by the Textile Ministry under the Chairmanship of former Textile Secretary Shri S. Sathyam has recommended the reduction of customs on the import of textile machinery besides some other recommendations;

(b) if so, what is the response of the Ministry of Finance thereto; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Ministry of Finance to make this traditional industry globally competitive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) to (c) : Yes Sir. The recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of former Textile Secretary Shri R.S. Sathyam which, *inter-alia*, include recommendations on Textile Machinery, mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescence, strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the Textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation of orderly transition of the industry to that of a market oriented forwarding looking industry. The Expert Committee recommendations are being taken into account, by the Government, in drafting a New Textile Policy.

Harassment to Corporate Sector by Central Excise Department

2666. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central Excise Department harasses Corporate and Business Sectors just to look after the financial interests of their superiors ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plans to nab such officers ;

(c) whether Government keep an eye on the life-style of such officers and their families ;

(d) whether Government have any plan for regular inspections and other ways of collecting informal information of their staff ; and

(e) whether Government feel it necessary to cleanse the Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer (a) above,

(d) The officers are required to file their Annual Property Returns every year.

(e) Government has issued detailed instructions to the field formations regarding the steps to be taken to improve administration from Vigilance angle.